

## Row could delay arms control pacts

WASHINGTON (R) — A dispute between the Soviet Union and the United States over verification of the 1987 intermediate nuclear forces (INF) treaty may complicate negotiations on two other crucial arms control agreements, U.S. officials said Friday. They fear the dispute over an X-ray scanner which the United States wants to use to check the contents of missile canisters leaving a factory in the Soviet Union may also strengthen right-wing opponents of arms control agreements within the White House and Congress. "This dispute points up the necessity for even more precise scrutiny of the language and nuances of the treaties and will focus our attention on that even more than before," said one Bush administration official. "It's going to be slow and painful anyway getting the language right. This could make it slower," he said. The problem arose last weekend at the missile plant of Volinsk, when Soviet officials refused to allow U.S. technicians to inspect the contents of three missile canisters with an X-ray system called "cargo scan." The X-rays are needed to check the canisters do not contain SS-20 missiles banned by the treaty.

# Jordan Times

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## Activists exert efforts to counter Jewish immigration

AMMAN (J.T.) — A group representing various public organisations met with Prime Minister Mudar Badran Thursday and discussed with him efforts to counter the threats inherent in Soviet Jewish immigration to Israel and the occupied territories, the Jordan News Agency, Petra, reported. The agency quoted a spokesman for the group as saying that the seven-member delegation briefed the prime minister on their contacts and efforts to alert the public on the threats posed by the massive influx of Jewish immigrants to Israel and the occupied lands. Earlier, the group handed petitions in this regard to the ambassadors of the United States and the Soviet Union and sent letters to the heads of Arab states. Prime Minister Badran voiced appreciation of the group's efforts, which constituted "one more step towards enhancing the steadfastness of the Arab people in the face of Israel's challenges." The prime minister emphasised the need to maintain national unity in the face of the threat posed by Jewish immigration into Palestine, the spokesman said.

## U.N. chief due here March 27

AMMAN (Petra) — United Nations Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar will arrive in Jordan on a four-day private visit March 27. The visit comes in response to an invitation by His Majesty King Hussein.

## Arafat, Nathan meet again

TUNIS (R) — Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat met Israeli peace campaigner Abie Nathan in Tunis Friday for the second time in eight days, the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) news agency said. Nathan, who runs a pacifist radio station in the Mediterranean, recently completed four months in jail for seeing Arafat on an earlier occasion. The agency quoted Nathan as saying, "I am campaigning for the sake of peace and against this law." Arafat told the agency, "Peacekeepers among the Palestinian and Israeli peoples will not forget what he has done. Generations to come will appreciate his struggle."

## India's deputy prime minister quits

NEW DELHI (R) — India's Deputy Prime Minister Devi Lal Friday handed in his resignation from the country's second most important political post, the Press Trust of India (PTI) news agency said. It quoted sources close to Lal as saying he was upset over what he saw as a "campaign of vilification" against him. There was no immediate official confirmation of the resignation, potentially a major crisis for the 16-week-old minority government of Prime Minister V.P. Singh.

## Hurd files to Oman

LONDON (AP) — Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd flew to Oman Friday to attend a meeting of European Community (EC) foreign ministers and the Gulf Cooperation Council. The foreign secretary's departure was delayed for 30 minutes while he waited for important documents to be brought to the airport.

## Sudan plays down U.S. aid cut

ABU DHABI (R) — Sudan's Finance Minister Sayed Ali Zaki said Friday that his country would find new sources of aid to replace funds cut by the United States. Washington said last week said it had stopped military and economic aid to Sudan under a law banning assistance to governments which came to power by a coup and failed to restore democracy within eight months. "The American decision will not have any impact on Sudan because the aid represents a small part of Sudan's resources," Zaki told reporters after attending an Arab monetary conference in Abu Dhabi.

## Jordan defends Iraqi action, urges U.S. to lead efforts for peace

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Majesty King Hussein has defended Iraq against Western condemnation for its execution of London-based journalist Farzad Bazoft.

"We hope that the numerous bidders which we see and feel... and that aim at mistreating Iraq, not only in this case but on others, will ease," the King told the Voice of America radio.

"There has been a concentrated attack on Iraq for a long period of time without any reason to justify it," the King said in the interview in London, carried by Jordan Radio Friday.

"There is no excuse for these efforts unless one would want to think that Iraq has defended the eastern borders of the Arab countries and the Arab Order and some might see that as constituting a danger," he added.

Bazoft, 31, was hanged Thursday after being convicted of spying for Britain and Israel.

"I am not fully aware of all the details of this man's case, but there is no doubt that makes me question anything related to this matter, be it the Iraqi judiciary, the investigation, or the results that the various Iraqi authorities concerned reached," King Hussein said.

The King said Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher asked him this week to use his good relations with Iraqi President Saddam Hussein to stop the execution.

He said he conveyed the appeal, "addressed to me on a humanitarian basis," to Foreign Minister Marwan Al Qasbi when he passed it to Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq Aziz.

King Hussein, now on a visit to London, Thursday discussed the question of Jewish immigration into Palestine with British Foreign Secretary Sir Douglas Hurd with whom he also reviewed a number of developments in the Middle East.

The King drew attention to the grave dangers inherent in the Jewish immigration from the Soviet Union and urged Britain and the European Community to reactivate their role to bring about peace to the Middle East.

King Hussein said "it was inevitable" that Israel's coalition government collapse because of the pressures and tensions over the composition of the Palestinian delegation to talks with Israel.

The King said it was not his place to suggest what the United States should do next, but reiterated that he still believes U.S. President George Bush offers great hope for peace in the region and should now give the Middle East the attention that it merits.

"I believe that the United States now, in the realities of today, must realise that it has greater responsibilities for the future of all concerned in that area on either side to the conflict, than ever before," he said.

"Without a solution to the problem, I fear that it is possible that those who have given so much and who have altered their position in the interest of peace may lose, and more extreme elements may emerge on either side to the conflict," he said.

"Then the future would look bleak and the area would be a danger to the world, on top of being a danger to itself."

based on U.N. Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338.

The King voiced his satisfaction with Britain's role within the EC as reflected in a recent EC statement on the Jewish emigration question.

Hurd said that his country deeply appreciates Jordan's role in peace efforts and was keen on supporting all moves to establish peace.

Earlier Thursday, King Hussein said the United States must take much greater responsibility for Middle East peace because of the political crisis in Israel and he warned that extremists on both sides could endanger world peace.

"Something needs to be done and fast," he told a luncheon of the Association of American Correspondents in London, which was held as Israel's parliament met following the government's collapse over a U.S. plan for a Palestinian-Israeli dialogue.

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"Let us hope that it may be a turning point for the better and that the result will be that the voice of those who can see beyond today, and the realities of today, can be heard in the interests of peace and justice," he said.

The King stressed that the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) had met every international demand, denouncing violence and recognising Israel's right to live in peace within secure borders. "The need now is for the Israeli side to do the same," he said.

The King said he was "disturbed and worried" to discover that between 45,000 and 46,000 Palestinians who had recently gone from the Israeli-occupied territories to Jordan to visit family and friends had remained in Jordan because "many of them have not been permitted to return."

He raised the possibility that this might be an Israeli strategy to depopulate the West Bank and Gaza Strip to make room for an estimated 700,000 Soviet Jews expected to immigrate to Israel.

He also noted that there had been reports "that there is a figure of maybe 120,000 that some people consider are aliens living in Israel or in the occupied territories."

"Who are they and what does that mean is a question that needs answering sometime in the future, and hopefully it won't be answered by facts on the ground," he said.

The King said he had never opposed the right of Soviet Jews to immigrate to Israel. But he said there must be guarantees they won't settle in the occupied territories and replace Palestinians "and drive them out of the land of their fathers and forefathers."

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His Majesty King Hussein Thursday confers with British Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd in a meeting attended by Royal Court Chief Sharif Said Ben Shaker (Petra wirephoto)

## Peres races to lead Israel; Shamir party fate in doubt

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Israeli Labour Party leader Shimon Peres raced Friday to form a new government, hoping to cash in on the support from a swing religious party that yielded the 60-55 victory against Shamir.

It was the first time an Israeli premier was formally ousted by a no-confidence motion. Past prime ministers have resigned before a vote was held when they appeared sure of losing.

Shamir, 74, faced a challenge for leadership within his rightist Likud Party from Deputy Prime Minister David Levy after losing a parliament confidence vote 60-55 late Thursday, political sources said.

President Chaim Herzog summoned leaders of Labour and Likud for consultations Sunday to determine which was more likely to attract enough support to reach the 61-seat parliamentary majority needed to form a government.

The Yediot Ahronot daily said Shamir was considering retirement from political life following Thursday's defeat, but another newspaper, Maariv, quoted the premier as saying "I see no reason to resign."

Israel Radio said Likud leaders met in Shamir's office Friday morning for a discussion of the party's future course. No further details were reported. Top Shamir aides Avi Pazner and Yossi Alimeir were not immediately available for comment.

Peres, meanwhile, launched behind-the-scenes contacts to form a new government, hoping to cash in on the support from a swing religious party that yielded the 60-55 victory against Shamir.

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## Pretoria-ANC talks set for April 11

JOHANNESBURG (AP) — The government said Friday it would open unprecedented talks with Nelson Mandela and African National Congress (ANC) leaders April 11. President F.W. de Klerk's office said in a statement the president and his cabinet would meet ANC leaders to deal with "obstacles perceived to obstruct the process toward negotiations." The talks are expected to try to set up formal negotiations on a new constitution that would give the black majority national voting rights. Friday's statement gave no additional details and there was no immediate comment from the ANC. Leaders from the ANC's exile headquarters in Zambia are expected to be part of the delegation. The organization was banned from 1960 until last month, and many ANC leaders will be making their first trip to South Africa since heading into exile more than a quarter-century ago. De Klerk legalized the ANC and more than 60 other anti-apartheid groups Feb. 2. Nine days later he freed Mandela, who had been imprisoned for 27 years for helping to launch the ANC sabotage campaign.

## Regent stresses need to develop south

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, Friday called for increased cooperation between the Armed Forces and the Ministry of Education to set up a polytechnic institute in the south to develop the human resources in the region.

The Regent, speaking at a meeting with members of the Upper and Lower Houses of Parliament from the south, and district governors and other senior officials, said special attention should be directed towards developing the land as well as human resources.

The Regent said one of the means to achieve the objective was through creating new courses and technical institutes, the Jordan News Agency, Petra, said reporting on the talks held at Mu'ta University.

Pointing out that Jordan lacked accurate information resources on the precise reasons for unemployment in the Kingdom, the Regent called for priority to be given to people from the south in employment in industries and other companies in the area.

Stressing the importance of developing land resources, the Regent said local councils should interact among themselves as well as with the capital and other regions through working out an effective framework for cooperation.

"It is out collective responsibility to find solutions to our problems," the Regent said.

He called for a shift from the "democracy of talks" to a "democracy of systems" and underlined the importance of consultation as the primary way to counter "destructive rumours."

The Regent listened to the problems, demands and proposals of the governorates of Maan, Tafelah and Karak as conveyed to him by the parliamentarians and officials and voiced his full understanding of the situation, Petra said.

The agency summarised the main problems as: Effects of drought, lack of animal feed, high cost of agricultural production requirements, a ban on artesian wells and closure of pastures.

## Carter arrives; formal meetings begin today

By Marwan M. Shahin  
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Former U.S. President Jimmy Carter and his wife arrived here from Amman Friday evening for talks with Jordanian leaders expected to focus on Middle East peace prospects.

The couple was met at the airport by His Majesty King Hussein's Political Advisor Adnan Abu Odeh and American Ambassador to Jordan Roscoe Soudthart.

Carter and his wife Rosalynn arrived in Amman from Syria earlier in the day and toured the city. They were briefed by officials on the strategic importance of the port.

Carter, who is scheduled to leave Jordan for Israel Sunday, is expected to be received by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, during his stay. He will also hold talks with Prime Minister Mudar Badran and the speakers of the Upper and Lower House of Parliament Saturday.

Carter began his four-country Middle East visit in Egypt. Syrian President Hafez Al Assad told Carter Thursday that a United Nations-sponsored international conference was the best way to achieve Middle East peace.

Assad also blamed Israel for regional instability because of its "negative attitude towards peace," an official said.

Carter's talks with Assad covered international and regional issues including the situation in Lebanon.

Carter told reporters in

Damascus Friday that after talks with Assad he was more optimistic than ever that Western hostages in Lebanon would be released.

"More opportunities exist now for their release than ever before," Carter told a news conference. "I see movement now... better chances than those I have seen for several years."

President Assad made it clear to me... that Syria would do everything possible to help the release of hostages," Carter said.

"Syria is exerting good offices to both locate the hostages and convince those who might be holding them that hostages should be protected and released," he added.

"Statements from Tehran are very encouraging... I think there is a growing desire on the part of the Iranian government and the U.S. government to work out the problems between us."

Carter said he supported the right of Soviet Jews to emigrate freely to Israel, but said he agreed with U.S. President George Bush that they should not be allowed to settle in the occupied West Bank, Gaza Strip, Golan Heights or Arab Jerusalem.

He said Bush's recent statement opposing Jewish settlement in Arab Jerusalem only restated a U.S. policy "that has existed for 25 years or so."

Carter said the United States still considers the Golan Heights, "annexed" by Israel after its capture from Syria in 1967, to be "sovereign Syrian territory."

هولاء عند الأصل



<b>Raddish</b>	240 / 300
<b>Sage</b>	150 / 100
<b>Spinach</b>	400 / 300
<b>Tomatoes</b>	160 / 130
	240 / 180



## NATIONAL NEWS IN BRIEF

### Jordan takes part in ALO meeting

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan participated in the meetings of the Arab Labour Organisation conference which ended in Cairo Wednesday. Ministry of Labour's Secretary-General Saleh Khasawneh, who led Jordan's delegation to the conference said that Iraqi minister of labour was elected as director of the Arab Labour Bureau and that Jordan was elected as a member of the Arab Labour Organisation (ALO). The conference, Khasawneh said, discussed a report from the ALO director-general on the social policies in the Arab World, the employment strategy, integration in the field of labour in the Arab World and rehabilitation and employment of the handicapped.

### Apple to hold exhibition

AMMAN (J.T.) — The third annual exhibition for Apple Computer Company will be held at the Marriott Hotel between March 20-22. Apple's agents in Jordan, Ideal Systems Company, will participate. The exhibition, which is held on an annual basis by the company, displays the latest inventions and achievements of Apple Macintosh Computers Company. Specialists from the company and Ideal Systems will provide assistance.

### Waha store lottery ends

AMMAN (J.T.) — The lottery for prizes has ended at Al Waha stores. The grand prize was won by Ihsan Abassi. Congratulations from everyone at Al Waha Stores.

### Hotel marks anniversary

AMMAN (J.T.) — On the occasion of 26th anniversary of the hotel the General Manager and Mrs. Majeed Khalil held a cocktail reception on Wednesday at Al Mukhtar Ballroom, which was attended by officials, diplomats, members of the press, businessmen and friends of the hotel in Jordan.

## Bulgarian quintet performs in Amman

AMMAN (J.T.) — Lovers of chamber music in Jordan have a rare opportunity this week to relish some melodious combinations of traditional and modern pieces from a veteran group from Bulgaria — the Sofia Wind Quintet.

The ensemble, which has won wide international acclaim and one of the only seven such groups in the world, will perform "pre-classic, classic, romantic, and modern (jazz)" pieces such as Bach's Suite no. 2, Chopin's waltz, Rimsky-Korsakov's "Flight of the bumble bee," Joplin's "The Entertainer," and Grieg's "Dance of Anitra."

Visiting Amman upon the invitation from the National Music Conservatory (NMC) of the Noor Al Hussein Foundation in coordination with the Bulgarian Embassy in Jordan, the group has scheduled one public performance and a private performance for students.

Flutist Rossista Ivanova, 44, the head of the group, and her four colleagues, oboist Georgi Jelasov, 52, clarinetist Atanas Kolev, 54, bassoonist Vassil Spasov, 38, and horn player Alexander Jovov, 28, are all graduates of the Bulgarian State Music Conservatory who got together 10 years ago to set up the Sofia Wind Quintet after winning international praise for their soloist performances as well as the Sofia Philharmonic and the Bulgarian Radio and Television Symphony Orchestra.

Since then, the group hasn't looked back; it went ahead and reaped world acclaim everywhere it performed, from the European continent to Latin America and Asia.

"One common thing that we five share is our dedication to music since very early childhood," said Jelasov, who recalled that every member of the quintet started learning music at such young ages as seven and eight.

"In view of the 'special and intimate' cultural relations between Jordan and Bulgaria, the Sofia Wind Quintet is performing in Amman," Jelasov said. "We consider it an honour to perform in the Jordanian capital," he added.

Some outstanding comments from music lovers around the world testify to the quality of music flowing from the quintet. "Masters and virtuosos," that's how an Algerian reviewer described the five. M. Gopopodinov wrote in Sofia's Narodna Kulturna that "one can speak of the Sofia Wind Quintet only in singular because the superb ensemble feeling of the five members is a sufficient reason for that."

Another befitting comment has come from a leading Indian commentator, Krishna Chaitanya, who wrote in the Times of India: "The deep and shared interest in exploring the capacities of expression of this grouping of instruments has ensured that the unfolding music's indication of leading and recessive roles which continuously interchange is acceptable."

David Storthorpe of the U.S. paid tribute to the group as "five people endowed with very high standards of musicianship and warm human qualities."

The group arrived here from Syria where it performed five concerts in one week, two of them transmitted on Syrian Television.

Having already performed in several other Asian countries, the group will head home from Amman before going to Greece in May and a Latin American swing through Mexico, Argentina, Cuba and Colombia in September to mark the 10th anniversary of its founding.

The public performance of the group in Amman is scheduled this evening at the Royal Cultural Centre. Earlier in the day the quintet performs for a student audience at the same place.



A scene of the phosphate pebbles after the drying process at the Arab Potash Company (File photo)

## Potash firm studies expansion possibilities

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Arab Potash Company (APC) has recently signed contracts with a major investment company to conduct detailed feasibility studies on expanding APC plant's production capacity, according to APC Managing Director Ali Ensour.

Ensour said in a statement on Jordan Television that the expansion project will be carried out in two stages, eventually enabling the company to produce 2.25 million tonnes of potash annually by the year 1996.

The APC plants, located near the southern tip of the Dead Sea, last year produced 1.25 million tonnes of potash which earned the country \$127 million, compared to 1.3 million tonnes which brought a revenue of \$120 million in 1988, Ensour said.

Ensour said that the company, established in 1962, has been able to pay back debts and boost its earnings and profits by increasing potash sales, which accounts for

about a fifth of the country's exports.

Jordan, which has a 54 per cent stake in the pan-Arab APC, began charging fees of JD 3 a tonne last April, but the debt-laden company remains exempt from tax, which is bound to help it make further profits.

Ensour said he expected world potash prices, now at the rate of about \$98 a tonne, to remain firm.

Ensour said that the government has recently set up a ministerial-level committee to study the prospect of establishing new potash-based industries. Such projects, he said, were expected to boost the company's income of foreign currency and open the door for further employment of Jordanian workers.

Other APC shareholders include the Arab Mining Company, with 25 per cent, Kuwait, Libya, Saudi Arabia and the Islamic Development Bank, holding the rest of the shares.

## Ireland marks national day

AMMAN (J.T.) — Every year on March 17, the people of Ireland and all Irish ethnic groups throughout the world, celebrate their national day, St. Patrick's Day. On the occasion, the honorary consul in Jordan, Mr. Salim Saad, issued a statement in which he lauded Irish ties with Jordan and the Arab World. Following are major excerpts from his statement:

Ireland has long standing and friendly ties with Jordan. Ireland's contacts with Jordan have increased considerably during the past few years. Through its membership in the European Community and activity at the United Nations, Ireland has played part in the efforts to assist in finding solutions to the Middle East problem.

Ireland believes that a just and lasting solution of this conflict must include the rights of all states in the area and the implementation of the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination with the option of setting up an independent Palestinian state.

Irish exports are best known in Jordan for consumers items and foodstuffs. Irish Kerrygold butter, ghee, milk, meats, clothing, veterinary products, pharmaceutical products, manufactured in Ireland, are well established.

## Clarification

AMMAN (J.T.) — In reference to two stories headlined "Jordan stresses interest in promoting international links" published in the Jordan Times March 13 and another headlined "Regional IBS meeting open" published in the March 15-16 issue, we received the following clarification, which is reprinted in full:

The International Baccalaureate Organisation (IBO) is a non-governmental organisation, based in Geneva.

The International Baccalaureate (IB) is an "international" educational system. The IB programme is a two-year course of study at the pre-university level. It therefore covers only the last two years of school, leading to a diploma which is a credential for university admission.

The IB is taught in more than 400 schools in around 60 countries all over the world. There are 13 schools in Arab countries that have adopted the IB system, including the Amman Baccalaureate School (ABS) in Jordan. These schools are independent of the IBO and although they may offer the IB programme, they do not necessarily offer it as the only course of study. For example, the ABS offers both the IB and the

Jordanian Tawjihi programme, and students at the ABS choose the programme they wish to study and follow the courses leading to either the IB diploma or the Tawjihi certificate.

The Jordanian Ministry of Education held a conference on the IB (as a system of education) March 12 and 13, 1990. The ministry invited IBO representatives as well as representatives of ministries of education in Kuwait, Bahrain, Oman and Egypt to this conference which was held under the patronage of Their Royal Highnesses Crown Prince Hassan and Princess Sarvath.

While Jordan is a member of the Standing Conference of Governments (SCG) of the International Baccalaureate Organisation, Her Royal Highness Princess Sarvath is a member of the Council of Foundation of the IBO on the one hand and is the chairwoman of the board of trustees of the Amman Baccalaureate School on the other.

The IBO is currently holding its Middle East regional teachers workshops at the ABS. Her Royal Highness Princess Sarvath officially opened the workshops at the ABS March 14, 1990.

## Israel government collapse only a stalling tactic for settling Soviet Jews — Arar

AMMAN (Petra) — Recent developments on the Israeli political scene which led to the downfall of the Israeli government are nothing but an attempt to gain time for Israel to absorb more immigrants and avoid any pressure from other countries to stop the process of settling Jews on Arab land, speaker of the Lower House of Parliament Suleiman Arar said Friday.

"There is no real difference between Likud and Labour, the two political parties in the Israeli coalition government, they are two faces of the same coin," Arar said upon returning here from a meeting in Cairo for the African Parliament Union.

"The collapse of the Israeli coalition government can only give Israelis further time for consultations and a chance to absorb more settlers," Arar added.

Arar said he was pessimistic about the turn of events in Israel because the decision-makers in the Jewish state are not genuinely interested in the establishment of peace in the region.

Referring to the United States, he said, "U.S. government officials have voiced only slight criticism of Israel's actions but soon afterwards declared major arms sales to Israel."

"In the light of these statements no American criticism of Israel's actions can have any value or meaning, he

added. Referring to the outcome of the meetings in Cairo, Arar said that important questions like the migration of Jews to Palestine were discussed and the conference issued a statement condemning the emigration of Jews which entails grave dangers for the Arab World. The Cairo meeting demanded that international organisations to stop Israel's atrocities and recognise the rights of the Palestinian people.

In a statement while in Cairo, Arar said that the coming few weeks will witness the announcement of a special committee entrusted with the task of formulating the projected national



Suleiman Arar

charter. "The charter, which will be prepared by a group representing all political groups in the Kingdom, is expected to provide a wide basis for political action and pave the way for political parties to emerge in the country," Arar said.

## WAJ begins searching for water in southern regions

TAFILEH (J.T.) — The Water Authority of Jordan (WAJ) has begun exploring for new water sources in the drought stricken Tafleeh region, in southern Jordan.

A WAJ spokesman here said the local Al Harir artesian well which supplies water to the governorate, "is at a dangerously low level and will not be able to supply more than 300 cubic metres daily in the coming summer months due to the poor rainfall this winter season."

The WAJ decision was in line

with government plans to find ways of assisting the southern region, Tafleeh, Maan and Karak, which was badly affected by the drought. The government has set up a ministerial committee which is arranging for interest-free loans to the farmers through the Agricultural Credit Corporation and making available water supplies for livestock and domestic use. At least JD 3 million has been allocated for the relief programme in the south, according to government officials involved in the projects.

According to Hamad Khreisha, director of the WAJ department in Tafleeh, the Harir well which provides water to the Tafleeh region used to pump up to 200,000 cubic metres daily. "At present it can only supply up to 800 cubic metres daily and this is expected to drop to 300 cubic metres in the summer," he said.

WAJ will now exploit the reserve well at Zibdeh and Abom and continue to search for new artesian wells, Khreisha said. He added that plans were set for a water distribution programme.

## Ministry, supply merchants locked in row over prices

AMMAN (J.T.) — The question of food supply prices in the country surfaced once again with an open dispute between the Ministry of Supply and the Jordanian Supply Merchants Association (JSMA).

Association President Elia Naqul said in a statement to the Jordan News Agency, Petra, Friday that if the government insists on fixing merchants' profit margins 10 per cent, down from 15 per cent, nearly 90 per cent of merchants will stop importing food supplies because then there

would be no point of maintaining their businesses."

Naqul said the present profit margin of 15 per cent was barely sufficient to cover the importer's expenses for refrigeration storage, bank charges, income tax and customs fees.

He suggested that the government announce a fixed policy for pricing food supplies in order to avoid the creation of a black market. "A slight increase in prices are far better than having a marketing without food supplies," Naqul said.

He said the cost of imported supplies increased by nearly 90 per cent since March 1989 mostly due to the devaluation of the dinar, the increase in government taxes and customs fees, and the rise in the cost of commodities in the exporter countries. He said a government decision to reduce customs fees would help reduce prices.

Ministry of Supply Secretary-General Radi Ibrahim said that ministry was committed to helping lower income groups,

## Jordan, N. Yemeni committee meets

SANAA (J.T.) — The joint Jordanian-North Yemeni higher committee is expected to open a meeting here Saturday under the co-chairmanship of Prime Minister Mudar Badran and Abdul Aziz Abdul Ghani to discuss joint projects and further steps towards integration.

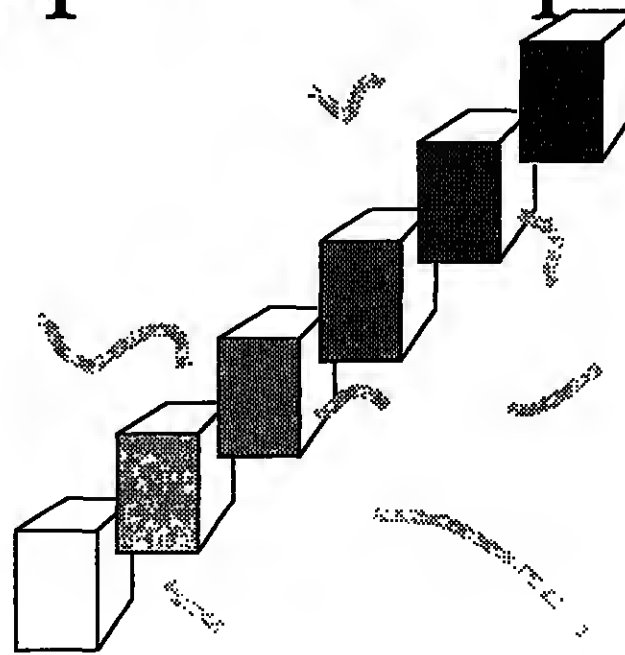
A special committee grouping officials from the two countries started preparing for the higher committee meeting here Thursday and discussed several agreements, programmes and proposed plans which will be tackled by the higher committee in its two-day meeting.

Jordanian official said that the two sides will conclude agreements in trade, public works, electricity, education, culture, health, agriculture and tourism.

A working paper on cooperation in these fields, the official said, was submitted by the North Yemeni side and approved by the preparatory committee.

The meeting in Sanaa will be the second of the higher committee which held its first meeting in Amman.

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## WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

### EXHIBITIONS

- \* Exhibition of plastic artists Arif Al Hamed and Ibrahim Al Nabulsi at the Housing Bank Complex.
- \* Art exhibition by seven Iraqi artists at Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation (10 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.)
- \* Exhibition of oil paintings by Jordanian artist Hisham Dajani at the Royal Cultural Centre.
- \* Photographic exhibition "The Soviet Village on the Path of Perestroika" at the Soviet Cultural Centre.
- \* Exhibition of watercolours by Jordanian artist Shaker Al Jarrah at Alha Art Gallery.
- \* Art exhibition entitled "Spanish contemporary engravings" at the Royal Cultural Centre.
- \* Art exhibition by Ahmad Nawash at the French Cultural Centre — 6:00 p.m.

### THEATRE

- \* Children's Arabic play entitled "Fables From My Grandmother's Chest" at the Royal Cultural Centre — 7:00 p.m.

### LECTURE

- \* Lecture, in Arabic, entitled "The Intifada Between the Political and the Religious" by Amin Diah at Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation — 6:00 p.m.

### FILMS

- \* The 1990 American film festival of fantasy and comedy features "AB OF ME" at the Philadelphia Theatre — 8:00 p.m.
- \* German video entitled "Tarot" at the Goethe Institute — 8:00 p.m.



## Jordan Times

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## Deadly negligence

THE drowning of a man and his ten-year-old nephew in the Dead Sea last week underscores the urgency of providing Jordanian beaches with life-saving equipment and applying certain procedures in order to avoid incidents of this sort. Friday's deaths need not have happened had the authorities concerned paid enough attention to past warnings and the persistent likelihood that such tragedies might occur at any time. Negligence on the part of all those connected with the Dead Sea resort area, under whose nose the deaths occurred, must not be brushed under the carpet. To begin with, there are always legal implications to every act of negligence which needs to be investigated and pursued. Secondly there is also a moral implication in not exercising a sufficient degree of care and concern over the lives of swimmers and users of Jordan's beaches whether in the Dead Sea area or in Aqaba. There is no way Jordan can develop its tourism industry without a parallel concern about the lives of tourists, be they local or foreign. How and why the limited Jordanian beaches are left without protection is an issue that warrants a thorough examination and scrutiny.

What exacerbates the situation even more is also the untold stories about the repeated brushes with death mostly in Aqaba beaches where swimmers often rub shoulders with speed boats cruising the limited beach area and even with divers carrying spears and other potentially dangerous equipment sometimes. There is hardly a beach front in Jordan with towers serviced with life-saving teams to keep an eye on even children swimmers. Swimmers not only dip in the waters at their own risk, they are not even warned in advance about their risky adventures. Jordan happens to be blessed with beautiful seas and beach fronts that attract tourists from far away countries. They deserve a much better care than had been provided them thus far. The authorities in charge of promoting and developing our touristic attractions are duty bound to exercise more care and attention about many matters that are taken for granted elsewhere such as life saving measures and emergency clinics equipped with paramedics at least. In this vein it is upsetting and disturbing that none of the members of the Parliament has seen fit and proper to raise such subjects on the floor of the Parliament. Perhaps now and in the aftermath of the Friday tragedy, our parliamentarians would take the initiative to address such mundane yet very important matters in order to ensure appropriate actions against similar accidents in the future.

## JORDAN PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Ra'i Arabic daily on Friday challenged the Soviet Union to prove its credibility in its dealings with the Middle East issue and to back its words with deeds with regard to stemming Israel's attempts to settle Soviet immigrants in occupied Palestinian land. The paper said that words by President Gorbachev and promises by Soviet officials are not enough, and the Arabs are awaiting real and practical steps to put an end to Israel's arrogance. The paper voiced support for Gorbachev's statement before parliament in Moscow that his country was determined to play a leading role in settling the Middle East conflict, and said this is the first step which Moscow can take in a long process to bring about peace to the Arab region. We are awaiting Moscow's step of ending all emigration from the Soviet Union to Israel until the Jewish state conforms to international law and implements U.N. Security Council resolutions and recognises the rights of the Palestinian people in their own homeland, said the paper. Moscow, the paper added, can regard Israel's insistence on settling the immigrants on Arab lands occupied since 1967 as a pretext to stop the migration of Jews because this is the way to deal with the Zionists who are showing total disregard to Arab rights. We are awaiting such step which is the best proof of Moscow's credibility which, in turn, can rebuild Soviet-Arab relations on a firm foundation of friendship and mutual interest in world peace, the paper concluded.

A columnist in Al Ra'i daily tackles the question of the national charter, which provides an umbrella for all political activity should it acquire public support. Salah Abdul Samad says that various political groups in Jordan have been active in trying to explain the real power behind this charter and are trying to give various interpretations for its terms of reference. The writer notes that the government can by no means impose the national charter on the people who will have the right to accept it or reject it. Neither can rejection be considered as a criminal act on the part of any citizen although those who will take part in formulating the charter will represent various schools of thought and different ideologies, Abdul Samad adds. He notes also that the Jordanian constitution has the upper hand should therefore serve as the supreme source for all legislations. The writer says the people's will should be respected at all costs whether they approve or disapprove of the national charter, because such respect can only manifest the real face of democracy in the country.

Al Dussar daily on Friday discussed the present media campaign in the West against Iraq for the execution of the Israeli-British spy describing it as hostile to the whole Arab Nation. The paper noted that the Western media are hinting that economic sanctions could be imposed on Iraq for executing the Israeli spy, which demonstrates open hostility towards the Arab people who are trying to defend their interests and protect their security. As we watch with astonishment this hostile campaign being launched against Iraq and the Arabs, we are also stupefied to see Western governments condoning Israel's atrocities in the occupied territories and its daily practice of slaughtering innocent children and women, the paper said. How can the Europeans defend an Israeli spy proved guilty after he confessed his crimes and remain silent in the face of the daily executions of Palestinian people, asked the paper. The paper said the Arab people can only hope that this hostile campaign against Iraq will stop immediately because it can only damage Arab-European relations. It said the Arab people can only voice their total support and solidarity with the Iraqi people in their continued endeavour to defend their security and pan-Arab interests.

## Can we hear the distant thunder?

By Dr. Musa Kellani

THREE weeks ago, some young Muslim militants shouted down a cabinet minister, and forced him to cut short his regular Friday sermon in Amman. A few days ago, a senior official faced something similar when he delivered a talk about Jordan's parliament in future and how democracy should operate in this country.

Those two incidents are indicative of how strong the new Muslim militants have become. Those new groups are not "Ikhwan", or Muslim Brothers. They form various factions which are frequent rivals. They carry different names like "Islamic Jihad — Holy War" or "Al Da'wa — The Call" or "Al Takfir Wal Hijra — Repentance and Fight" or "Hizb Altahrir Al Islami — Islamic Liberation Party". It is to be admitted that the success of "Islamic Jihad" in Gaza during the last two years, and the political repercussions of Hamas and the intifada, have given the militant groups in Jordan strength, encouragement, as well as a badly needed hope.

But a distinction should be made between the "Ikhwan" and those militant groups. The former have been a part of the Jordanian political scene since 1946 whereas the latter started to emerge in the 1980's when the Egyptian violence cloned them here. Both groups derive spiritual and ideological guidance from the Koran, Sunna and the early days of Islam. Both agree that there is no distinction between religion and politics, that the Islamic political system should be applied in legislation; that Islam, the word of Allah, should rule Jordan and the Muslim world. Both groups share a certain revulsion against Western modern behaviour as well as a desire to return to traditional social values. Both regard Israel as the main enemy. Both see no conflict between Islam and pan-Arabism — excluding the Islamic Liberation Party. Last week the "Ikhwan" announced their acceptance of a pluralistic political system within which they are prepared to operate. They condemn violence against Muslims. They

believe in active proselytisation. Their performance in the parliament revealed their moderation and rationality. Their stand against the riots of April 1989 crowned their very special strategic alliance with the leadership. Their MP's vote of confidence in favour of Prime Minister Badran two months ago bought everybody a badly needed time.

In contrast, the militants are aggressive and they do not shy away from conspiratorial means to reach their ends including violence or attempted coup-d'etat. There was more than one arrest of army officers who failed in their attempts and were found to be Islamic Liberation Party members.

More than one militant got fed up with the mere verbal Da'wa to Islam and crossed over the river in search of martyrdom. One of them was Nasser Al Bayedh, the Jordanian soldier who managed to shoot two Israeli officers and to wound two more on 29th January 1986. He was hailed as the (Egyptian) Salman Khater of Jordan. His father was sur-

prised to see the thousands of Jordanians, who poured to express their admiration for the heroic act of his son — Nasser Al Bayedh.

The young militants point an accusing finger at the "Ikhwan" for their political stands with the regime. They criticise the "Ikhwan's" running of Islamic banks, hospitals and schools. The young militants operate underground in the refugee camps where their cells do not exceed four or five to evade the attention of the Mukhabarat.

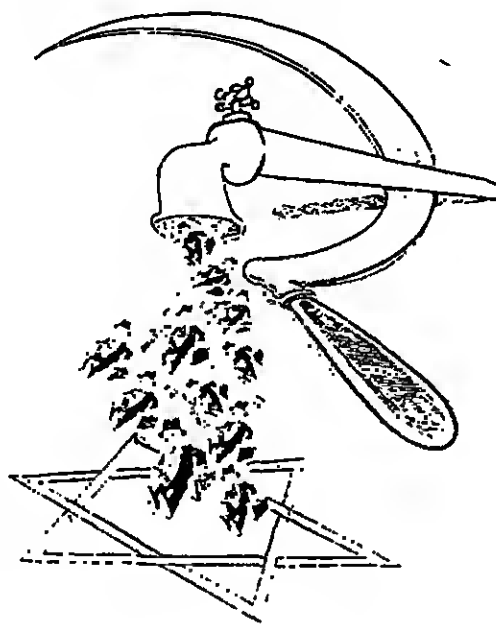
The young militants are well organised. They have well-printed pamphlets distributed regularly at university campuses. A monthly newsletter carries their analyses of political developments in Jordan. They consider the resumption of parliamentary life here as a diversionary tactic to silence any talk about high-level corruption. Some of the militants' pamphlets expressed anger regarding the "Tornado" arms deal. So far some of them consider a government salary as "unclean". Therefore, they

would prefer — though well-qualified — to do any manual work or business rather than accept a teacher's job in a government school. Some of the young militants go so far as to regard null and void any prayer in a mosque behind an "Imam" paid by the government.

The Jordanian militants draw their inspiration from two Egyptian fundamentalists: Sheikh Hafez Salama and Sheikh Omar Abdul-Rahman. It is believed that much of the financial aid to the young Muslim militants comes from their supporters in Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and Bahrain. Those supporters are individuals, and not governments.

But one question has to be asked, who would win in the end: the "Ikhwan" or the militants? All indications point to one fact, that the answer depends on the Jordanian government. The "Ikhwan" with their big bloc in the parliament can resist the challenges of the militants as long as they can show certain influence on Jordan's policy. When the "Ikhwan" show more willingness to the Sharia, they can remain the dominant force in Jordan. Their political tactic is different from the militants'. Their uneasy pact with the government has to continue. Higher echelons of power here have to watch where to draw the line. In case of a break up between the "Ikhwan" and the government, there will never be only one loser. It is to the advantage of all sides to maintain this relationship however fragile it may be. It is noteworthy in this respect to draw attention to the "Ikhwan's" version of national charter "Mithaq" announced on the 6th of March, 1990. They officially announced that Jordan's internal security is a holy duty which should be kept, defended and maintained at whatever cost. This line of thought runs diametrically opposite to the young militants' line and their school as preachers of the bullet.

At the moment, the militants' thunder is distant, but we should never be deaf to the distant thunder.



## Emigrating Soviet Jews say they have no choice

By Emil Varadi  
 Reuters

BUDAPEST — "At the end you find yourself sitting on top of your luggage in an empty room. You know you have cut all your old ties and a whole new life lies ahead," said 27-year-old Marina Prykhodina.

"But inside you are broken. This is what we call the emigrant syndrome."

Marina, a speech therapist from Moscow, her husband Oscar Tredlya, 29, her mother Nina, 51, and two-year-old daughter Nicole are among the thousands of Soviet Jews who have decided to leave the Soviet Union.

Interviewed during a stopover at Budapest, Marina said that given the choice they would have preferred a Western European country or the United States.

About two million Jews live in the Soviet Union and up to 100,000 of them are expected to emigrate to Israel this year — most via Budapest.

They arrive in the Hungarian capital on trains or by air carrying "everything except the furniture" and wait a day or two to board a flight for Tel Aviv.

"Life became terrible in Moscow. In the shops there was nothing but the lamps shining into empty deep freezers," Marina complained.

"I did not want my child to grow up in a country where she was threatened by anti-Semitism," she said, adding that they even feared physical violence.

She said she also feared that her child might catch AIDS, as about 80 children had already contracted the deadly disease from shared needles in Soviet clinics.

And despite President Mikhail Gorbachev's perestroika reforms, Marina has no confidence in his promises.

normal life. I want to see the world. I want my mother and child to have a normal life. I want to earn a proper salary for my work," she exclaimed.

Oscar, who performed the official paperwork for the family, said they had to fill in forms listing their places of work 15 years back and had to provide data on their relatives.

All Soviet citizens who want to emigrate must produce written consent from their parents. The discharge from Soviet citizenship cost Marina's family 700 roubles (\$1,100) per person. Air tickets to Tel Aviv cost 729 roubles (\$1,145) each.

"Air tickets were practically unavailable as flights from Moscow to Budapest are booked solid 18 months ahead. But a friend helped us," said Oscar.

The family left behind a tiny flat in a typical concrete block in northern Moscow. It consisted of a small room, a miniature kitchen and a narrow bathroom.

Oscar's relatives live in Haifa, where the new arrivals, like other immigrants, expect to be given Hebrew lessons for six months paid for by the immigration ministry.

Marina admits she may have problems finding work as a speech therapist but Oscar, a telecommunications specialist, has a better chance of finding similar work.

Back in the Soviet Union, fearing that security-conscious Soviet authorities might stop him leaving, Oscar quit his post at a state telecommunications company and took a less sensitive job a year before filing emigration papers.

He says he would not like to live in the occupied territories, where Palestinians are revolting against Israeli occupation.

"I would have the feeling that I was not living in my own country, but on alien territory," Oscar said.

But asked if they would go back to the Soviet Union if they did not like life in Israel, they both answered without hesitation: "No, never."

## Why fight a war that is over?

The following article by Professor Ghassan Salameh appeared in the London-based Arabic daily, Al Hayat, on Feb. 2.

ANYONE watching Afghanistan can be excused for concluding that the Arabs are still fighting a war that has ended.

Arab regimes, or some at least, joined the Afghan war ostensibly in defence of a Muslim country invaded by foreigners, an Islamic society on which an atheist system was imposed, and a geographical entity whose occupation brought Soviet power closer to the warm waters of the Gulf. For these religious, political and strategic reasons, most Arab regimes denounced the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan, and some provided immense military, financial and diplomatic aid to various mujahideen groups, while sending thousands of "volunteers" to join the fight against the Russians.

Although this war is over, some Arabs are still waging it. The Afghan war changed fundamentally some time ago, but some Arab governments still act as if it did not, as though they are fighting the same battle in 1990 that they were in 1980.

And as what Pravda has called the "internal Afghanistan" — meaning Azerbaijan — erupted, the primitive and incorrect notion harboured by some Arab regimes about the inherent wickedness of the Soviet Union seems to have become stronger. Those who joined the war in Afghanistan, and devoted massive political and

economic resources to it, are clearly liable to find themselves facing the prospect of squandering all those efforts, as circumstances in Afghanistan change and others begin reaping the rewards of the Arab involvement on the side of mujahideen.

At the risk of over-simplifying, one can say that the fight against the Soviets has been replaced by a vicious Lebanese-style war. It is a great danger for these Arabs to keep treating the Afghan question as a matter of mujahideen versus Moscow. It has become a civil war, if not entirely, then for the most part.

**"It is a great danger for Arabs to keep treating the Afghan question as a matter of Mujahideen versus Moscow. It has become a civil war, if not entirely, then for the most part."**

The first consideration must be the Peshawar-based interim government which most Arab regim-

es recognise as the sole representative of the Afghan people. In reality, this government has from the outset represented Pakistani interests much more than it has the various sectors of the Afghan population. Secondly, one must consider the aims and capabilities of this government. Those who think their only aim is to expel the Najibullah government from Kabul, or that they are capable of doing so if it was, must think again...

In practice, because they are the intermediaries for arms and money, because their popular base inside the country is phoney, because they are the puppets of their host state to a certain extent, the "leaders" in Peshawar are rivals and adversaries... as in Lebanon, the transformation of these warlords into "ministers" has led to understandings between them at the expense of the common good, while their internecine wars rage in the streets. They are also from the Sunni sect, while the Shi'ite groups operate out of Iran. The sectarian division is extremely sharp. The Peshawar "government" accuses "its Shi'ite citizens" of concluding a deal with the Russians and Najibullah, finalised when Rafsanjani visited Moscow last year, under which Iran and the USSR and their respective representatives — the Iran-based Afghan rebels and the Najibullah government — would cooperate to prevent the Peshawar government from taking power. Alliances of

opposites, or rather a succession of ever-shifting opportunist alliances, is — we know from Lebanon — a characteristic of civil wars, not wars of liberation...

Pakistani and Arab backing for the Hekmatyar and Sayyaf factions has already begun producing a reaction among various tribal groups in the country, which have started complaining about "excessive Arab interference" in internal Afghan affairs. This threatens to jeopardise Arab interests, unless the Arab governments concerned seriously reconsider this war and their role in it...

The Arab governments involved have an alternative. They can start a serious dialogue with Moscow about the best solution to the Afghan problems, without being constrained by past policies or rigid alliances. They must draw a clearer distinction between Arab interests and those of Pakistan on the one hand, and the policies of the various factions on the other. Arab interests are also distinct — and this must be emphasised with even more clarity — from those of the United States. The Americans behave according to the rules of the cold war, which they believe may stop at some stage, but at least they should be — about ending the Afghan war as soon as possible. At present, the only losers in the continuation of the conflict are the unfortunate Afghan people.

## Mutt'n' Jeff



## Andy Capp

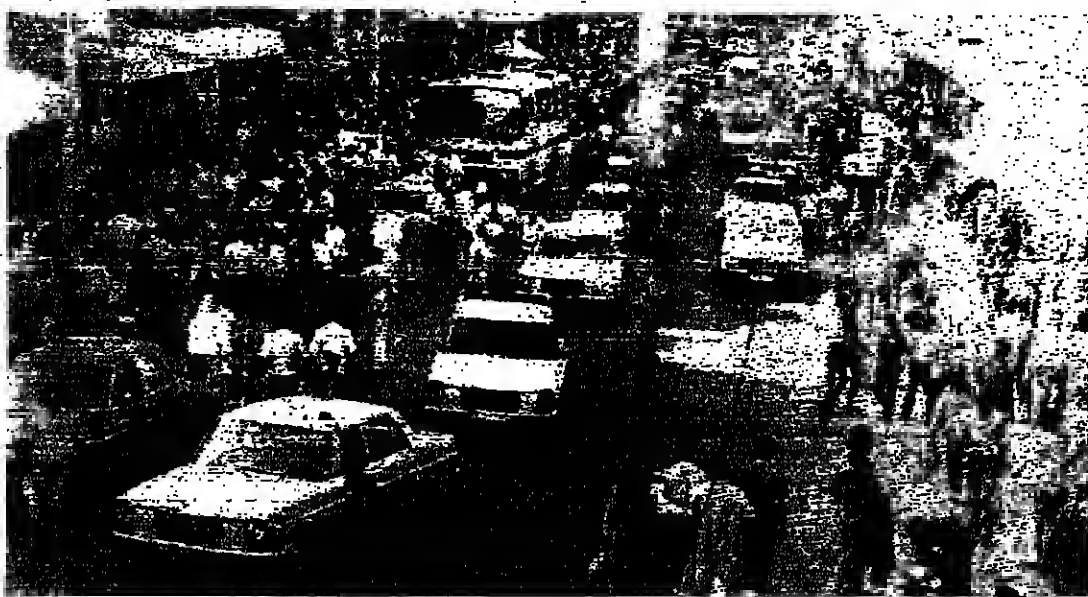


## Peanuts





# Public transport in Jordan — brickbats and bouquets



Soaring prices have pushed private cars beyond the reach of many in Jordan, and the obvious choice is a taxi but not without its own problems (File photo).

## Buses — a story of clogged gears

PUBLIC transportation is a problem discussed at length at homes, at work and at meeting places among all generations, particularly by those who are not fortunate enough to own a vehicle. In the main, people criticise the authorities for failing to establish a reliable and efficient public transport system that could serve the public at large. The authorities in turn plead inability to come up with overnight solutions to the problem, whether in the availability of vehicles or in time-tables or routes. However, the authorities affirm that they are indeed working on the problem, but cannot say when definite solutions will materialise, **Saeeda Khamil** reports:



Narrow streets and heavy traffic in the capital are cited by the authorities as the main obstacle in drawing up a strictly enforced time-table for public transport buses (Photo by Saeeda Khamil)

## Taxis — in need of a break

AS IN any other capital, taxis have become an essential part of life in Amman. But, the problems encountered by taxi users are many, ranging from difficult street addresses and unclear vehicles to lack of exact change. **Nurmesan Murad** reports:

AMMAN — With the skyrocketing prices of cars, many Jordanians have turned to the relatively cheaper means of public transportation, taxis, to travel within the capital and other cities in the Kingdom. Using taxis, however, is not without its problems for many of those who use them.

One of the most pressing problems faced by taxi users in Amman is that they have to give the driver route directions to their destination, rather than the driver knowing how to get there.

"When I first came to Amman, I would get into a taxi and give the driver an address. Most of the time he didn't know how to get me there so I would get out and try another taxi," said a working woman.

In many cities of the world, a total stranger has only to carry an address and be home safe. In England, in particular, drivers take intensive courses for two years before they are licensed as taxi drivers.

The president of the association of owners of public transportation cars, Abdullah Al Qaisi, told the Jordan Times that taxi drivers in Jordan have only to pass a regular driving test.

Although Qaisi understands the need to train taxi drivers in the names and directions of streets in the capital, he maintains that this training can only be done if the Licensing Department at the Traffic Department makes it a prerequisite.

Qaisi suggested that books which carry maps of the different parts of the capital should be given to would-be taxi drivers to study and a test should be conducted before a driver is licensed. But, he added, "it would be very difficult for the drivers who make their livelihood out of this job now."

Although many people who ride taxis realise that the drivers almost always need directions from the passenger "we cannot blame them because even we do not know the names of the streets we are living in."

Most of the capital's streets do have names which were chosen carefully by the Greater Amman Municipality "but they are difficult to find."

tained.

### 'Reckless driving'

Complaints about "irresponsible" driving of taxi drivers is an issue which not only bothers their passengers but very often drivers of other cars on the streets.

"I took down the number of a taxi today and I am going to send a letter to the traffic department against him," said an angry private car driver. "He almost rushed me off the road only to pass a red light; it was unbelievable," he said.

A frequent user of taxis maintained that taxi drivers "do not abide by the minimum rules of driving."

"I count my blessings every time I come out of a taxi ride safe," he added.

### 'Change'

Another problem is of exact change. Many people complain that taxi drivers do not carry enough change. Some even suggest that some drivers make it a ploy to get away with more than the actual fare.

As a rule, most drivers take the nearest 50-fils equivalent of the meter reading. For instance, if the meter says 510 fils, it goes without saying that the driver takes 550 fils.

"Of course, there are also others who will only take 500 fils," observed a seasoned taxi user.

But not having the exact change could be really frustrating at times when a passenger is pressed for time and he has to go around trying to change his JD 5 note.

One way to address this problem, says a driver, is that the passenger should inform the driver that he or she is carrying a "big note."

"This will help us stop at a gas station or shop to get change if we do not have enough on us," he said.

Although taxi drivers come under heavy criticism over many issues, one of the heaviest critics added a good word in their favour.

"To their credit, as God is witness, they are honest. Most of them return valuables left in their cars to their owners or hand them over to police stations," he said.

"This is definitely the best trait in them."

system is centralised; direction of all buses is from and to downtown."

Marwan Al Kheetan, director of the transportation and employment department at the ministry, also points out to the complexity of this problem. "It would be better for us if it is possible to apply a strictly enforced time-table inside Amman, but it is practically impossible. There are hundreds of taxis and service taxi drivers who park their cars in place of bus stations downtown. In addition, the area provided for buses is limited and the roads there are narrow," he said.

Proper time-tables can be and are applied outside the capital — Madaba, Zarqa, Baqa and Salt since "there are no traffic problems. The roads do not pose any effective problem," according to Kheetan.

However, the absence of precise timings of buses has resulted in pitting the public on the one hand and the competent authorities on the other.

Two employees in a bank along with others in a bus station downtown complained of the daily overcrowdedness and the insufficiency of buses on their line. "Every day, we wait for at least an hour for a

bus to take us from Jubeiha to downtown," said one of them. "First of all, we do not know when to expect a bus. Then when one turns up it's full. Sometimes two or three buses come together after an hour of wait," he added. "The situation is no different when we wait downtown to return home. It could be really annoying and frustrating after six hours of hard work at the bank."

"One sometimes gets fed up with the same problem of overcrowdedness and the struggle to get in, whether in rain or in the heat of the sun. Sometime we are forced to take a taxi, but then it is a burden on us, particularly now when the cost of living is on the rise."

Passengers are not the only ones who have complaints; the authorities have their own grievances starting with "abuse of our vehicles by commuters."

Kheetan says that approximately 140,000 people travel on the Public Transport Corporation's 260 buses operating on 91 lines. And the entire system is based on the flow of traffic on each line. Apart from that, Kheetan attributes the major part of the problem basically to lack of cooperation

between the private and the public sectors, and to the "irresponsibility and manipulation" of private sector bus operators.

Basically, he says, the number of buses on each line is determined by the estimated flow of daily passengers after taking into consideration the availability of private sector buses on the same route.

"What happens actually," he added, "is that whenever there is an occasion of some sort, like a scholastic trip or a wedding, the buses of the private sector are hired for a whole day, leaving a vacuum and imbalance in the overall daily system."

Accordingly, some of the government buses are moved from one line to another to make up for shortages, and that leaves gaps in the original routes from where they are moved.

"The problem cannot be solved unless the two sectors work out on a plan together; and this takes time for planning and execution," according to Kheetan.

However, when everything goes well between the two sectors, overcrowdedness is still witnessed in many areas.

"Well, what is to be done when we order, for example, five buses and sometimes more, in a row to leave at 8:00 a.m. heading for the university from every line, and still they are crowded and many are left behind. It's just because all of them take the bus at the same time which constitutes another problem," complains Kheetan.

The non-existence of strict time-tables and the subsequent overcrowdedness have evoked outrageous behaviours and reactions from the public. One notices in most of the bus stations few people respect the queue system.

"One waits for so long to go back home and it will be unfair for another to just take his place... and that is why I rushed in that manner to the bus," said a rider on a crowded bus after leading a long struggle to get in the bus. Another one who fought and managed to get in, though he was the last to arrive, said: "Who knows when another bus will come; it may be ten minutes or an hour... and if I waited, it is possible that the waiting crowd would even be more thicker than it is now... and everyone fights, why not me?"



A patient wait for buses (File photo)

## Peres races

(Continued from page 1)

64, as his successor. Party chairman Ariel Sharon, the 62-year-old leader of Israel's 1982 Lebanon invasion, is widely seen as having little chance of succeeding Shamir so soon after quitting the cabinet last month over the peace moves.

The deciding factor could be the ultra-religious Agudat Israel Party, which abandoned Likud for Labor because Shamir bowed to powerful U.S. Jewish leaders and refused to toughen a law on who could call himself a Jew.

"We vote no-confidence in Shamir," said rabbi Menachem Porush of Agudat Israel, refusing to ride out support of an alternative Likud leader.

Religious parties, often guided by bearded sages in black coats, are traditional kingmakers in Israeli politics, offering support in return for government cash for their schools and stricter public observance of Jewish law.

A PLO leader commended the Israeli Labour Party for its willingness to talk peace with Palestinians.

Yasser Arafat, a member of the PLO Executive Committee, told Reuters the collapse of the Israeli coalition government would force Israel to choose between "transience and talks with the PLO."

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## OPEC appears split over higher oil prices

VIENNA (R) — OPEC ministers preparing for talks in Vienna appeared split Friday on how high to send oil prices in a sellers' market which beckons in the 1990s.

Oil Minister Fawzi Shakhshouki of Libya, a traditional price militant, said he wanted a target of at least \$20.

Iraq also said it preferred prices to be above the present declared target of an average of \$18 for a barrel (42 U.S. gallons) in the spot market.

The Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) tries to control pricing by assigning production quotas to its 13 members so as to throttle supply.

A strong rebound in world demand from the glut of the 1980s has helped lately to raise ruling prices above \$18.

And in a reaction that has angered the OPEC majority, Kuwait, an advocate of low prices as a tactic to accelerate the recovery of demand, has been exceed-

ing its mandated quota.

Its minister, Sheikh Ali Al Khalifa Al Sabah, who drove to Vienna from Hungary where he was pursuing a sales blitz in Eastern Europe, is on record as saying he felt no obligation to keep to the rules while prices exceeded the agreed target.

Another small and affluent Gulf Arab monarchy, the United Arab Emirates, also calls present price levels "ideal" and has opted out of OPEC's quota system.

Other cash-pinched members with less surplus production capacity will press in Vienna for a halt to the quota-busting.

Their delegates cite a forecast by the OPEC secretariat that demand for oil will slip by some three million barrels daily to 20.8 million in the traditionally weak April-June quarter of the year.

Gulf sources say the Kuwaitis seem in no mood to turn down the taps unless the potential excess supply causes prices to weaken

appreciably. Kuwait has a big worldwide refining system that can make money out of cheap crude.

Several ministers said no decisions on a new price target would be taken in the talks due to start Friday which are officially only a session of the market monitoring committee.

"What we are saying is that the present agreement ought to be adhered to until May," said Iraq's Issam Abdul Rahim Al Chalabi.

OPEC sources said the ministers will try to lay the basis of a deal to be struck at a conference due on May 25 which will set policy for the rest of the year.

The recovery in world oil demand, which saw U.S. imports from OPEC rise 25 per cent in 1989, is expected to resume in the northern summer, the peak motoring season.

Kuwait has argued that OPEC will soon no longer need quotas, which have been employed to defend prices since 1982.

## Arab funds detail needs to bolster Arab economies

ABU DHABI (R) — Arab finance ministers have heard a gloomy report on their economies at their annual meeting.

The head of the five main Arab money and development funds gave their reports to ministers of the 21-nation Arab League at the meeting in Abu Dhabi, in the United Arab Emirates (UAE).

"Economic development in Arab states shows that most of our countries are suffering from domestic, and external economic imbalances," UAE minister of state for finance and industry, Ahmad Al Tayar, said in an opening address.

Declining gross national product (GNP), increasing balance of payments deficits and external debts, lower oil earnings, over-reliance on the public sector, and plain bad management had led to the decline, the heads of the five funds said.

The five funds are the Arab Monetary Fund (AMF), the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development (AFESD), the

Inter-Arab Investment Guarantee Corporation (AIGC), the Arab Fund for Agricultural Investment and Development (AAID), and Arab Bank for Development in Africa (ABDA).

Osama Jaffar Al Faqih, chairman of the Abu Dhabi-based AMF, said Arab Nations' deficits had persisted despite rising deficit-financing loans from the AMF since it was established in 1977.

"As we look to the past decade, we see that it has left clear traces... weak economic growth, worse foreign debts, and domination of the public sector," he said.

"Arabs need intensive efforts to redress the imbalances in their economies that obstruct development. They need to boost savings and upgrade financial and banking systems," he said.

Abdul Latif Hamad, head of the Kuwait-based AFESD, said a drop in Arab oil earnings over the past decade to \$64 billion from \$213 billion, and a drop in

GNP to \$355 billion from \$440 billion over the same period, had been a severe blow.

"This has reflected badly on Arab savings which fell to 15 per cent of GNP from around 30 per cent in the early 1980s," he said.

"This has made Arab Nations incapable of meeting their international financial obligations," he added.

"We must say that if we want to achieve the objectives of our development plans, we should be inclined to change, including changing the structure and management of our economies," he stressed.

The heads of the five funds all announced improved profits, and an increase in loans in 1989, but some complained about outstanding debts.

The ministers are due to announce the formal inception of a new \$500 million Arab trade fund to help boost inter-Arab trade, which is at a very low eight per cent of total Arab trade.

## Tadiran reports \$100m loss

TEL AVIV (R) — Tadiran, Israel's troubled military electronics conglomerate, lost more than \$100 million in 1989, a company

spokesman said Thursday. He said the loss, five times the 1988 figure, was largely due to the cost of closing production

lines and writing off useless stocks. Total sales were \$850 million last year including \$350 million in exports.

Tadiran General Manager Gourion Meitner told a parliamentary committee Wednesday the firm would soon submit a new recovery programme to its creditors.

Former General Manager Yosef Maayan resigned last week after failing to get more credits from banks or worker support for the recovery plan.

Israeli banks have refused Tadiran a much-needed \$50 million short-term loan, saying a previous recovery plan was not serious. Management was forced to delay payment of salaries.

"The new plan includes a sharp cut in wages, dismissal of workers and assets-selling," Meitner told the committee.

## Study urges scrapping curbs on Third World textile exports

BRUSSELS (R) — The West is holding up the development of the Third World by limiting imports of textiles and should scrap such bans by the year 2000, a new World Bank study says.

"Tariffs and trade restrictions on textiles cost developing countries about \$8 billion a year," said Carl Hamilton, editor of the study.

Western Europe and North America negotiated the curbs in 1974 to give their textile industries time to adjust to competition from developing countries.

The so-called Multifibre Arrangement was supposed to be temporary, and it is high time to start dismantling it, Hamilton told a news conference to mark publication.

The study was issued to coin-

cide with the last phase of a four-year round of world trade talks involving countries.

The Uruguay Round negotiations, named after the country where they were launched in 1986, are aimed at setting international trading patterns for the 21st century.

They are held under the auspices of the Geneva-based General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT), and are due to end in Brussels next December.

Textiles are set to be the most important single item on the agenda for developing countries, contributor Martin Wolf said.

"Textiles are always the historical starting point for industrialisation," he said. Exports of cloth and clothing enable Third World

countries to get up the first rung of the ladder to development, he added.

He proposed a 10-year phasing out of curbs on exports, with guarantees that the process be irreversible.

Hamilton added he was worried the emerging democracies of Eastern Europe might squeeze Third World textile exporters to the European Community within the next decade.

He expected countries such as Poland, Czechoslovakia and Hungary to benefit from privileged access to the current 12-nation European Community.

Textile prices in the West could come down as a result, but less developed countries might not gain in the process, he said.

## Vatican expects largest deficit ever in '89

VATICAN CITY (R) — The Vatican said Thursday its projected 1990 deficit would be a record \$86 million and made a pressing appeal to Catholics around the world to help raise more funds.

A statement released after a meeting of the committee of cardinals who oversee the Vatican's finances said it expected income of about \$66.5 million and expenses of \$152.4 million, leaving a deficit of about \$86 million.

This was \$8 million more than its projected deficit for last year.

The Holy See's budget covers the church's administration, including its departments for social, religious and diplomatic affairs around the world, its daily news-

paper and radio station.

It does not include the budget to run the Vatican City, a sovereign city-state within Rome, or assets of the controversial Vatican bank, which was involved in a major scandal connected with the bankruptcy of Italy's Banco Ambrosiano in 1982.

Although the Holy See's budget has no relation with the Vatican bank, contributions from the faithful dropped for several years after the scandal.

The statement said the Vatican's deficit had grown despite an "unavoidable policy of austerity" carried out by its staff.

It reminded bishops around the world that canon (church) law

obliged them to do as much as possible to help fund the church's central administration.

The cardinals thanked Catholics who had given more in recent years but said they had to make "another particularly pressing appeal so that such collaboration is generously intensified."

The cardinals' statement said the Holy See would try to apply an almost \$9 million surplus from the budget of the Vatican City to the overall church deficit and dip into "Peter's pence," a collection made in Catholic churches around the world for the Pope's use.

Before the Holy See began running large deficits in the 1980s, Peter's pence was tradi-

tionally destined for missions and charitable works. In 1989, Peter's pence amounted to \$48 million and was used to cover that year's deficit.

Later this week a Vatican committee is expected to announce a new director-general for the Vatican bank, which underwent structural changes last year following the Ambrosiano scandal.

The appointment of a non-cleric will formally end the bank's relationship with U.S. Archbishop Paul Marcinkus, its controversial president who was accused by Italian magistrates of being partly responsible for the Ambrosiano crash.

Marcinkus has repeatedly denied any wrongdoing.

### AMMAN EXCHANGE RATES

Thursday, March 15, 1990				
Central Bank official rates				
	Buy	Sell		
U.S. dollar	671.0	675.0	Japanese yen (for 100)	440.0
Pound Sterling	1079.3	1085.8	Dutch guilder	348.3
Deutsche mark	322.3	324.7	Swedish crown	108.4
Swiss franc	440.4	443.0	Italian lira (for 100)	53.2
French franc	116.1	116.8	Belgian franc (for 10)	189.2

### Amman Financial Market weekly trading

Following is a summary of trading during last week and the previous week:

	March 10-14	March 3-7
Daily average	JD 793,077	JD 989,964
Total volume	JD 3,965,384	JD 4,949,818
Total shares	2,574,193	2,099,500
No. of contracts	2,973	3,135

Sectoral trading:		
Industrial	JD 1,875,295 (47.3%)	JD 2,707,907 (54.7%)
Financial	JD 1,051,772 (26.5%)	JD 1,469,709 (29.6%)
Service	(25.0%)	(13.7%)
Insurance	(1.2%)	(2.0%)

Share price index	136.8	137.3
No. of companies	64	70
Price movement (rise)	10	12
(decline)	42	49
(stable)	12	9

### LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midsession on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Friday.

One Sterling	1.6210/20	U.S. dollars
One U.S. dollar	1.1820/30	Canadian dollar
	1.6980/87	Deutsche mark
	1.9125/35	Dutch guilder
	1.5148/55	Swiss franc
	35.25/30	Belgian franc
	5.7375/7425	French franc
	125.31/254	Italian lire
	152.15/25	Japanese yen
	6.1470/1520	Swedish crown
	6.5755/5805	Norwegian crown
	6.5070/5120	Danish crown
One ounce of gold	399.25/399.65	U.S. dollars

### WORLD STOCK MARKETS

TOKYO — Share prices were easier in modest trade at the close as selling pressure overwhelmed periodic buying by investment trust funds and other investors. The Nikkei index fell 55.20 to 32,616.44.

HONG KONG — Stocks closed softer in see-saw trading on a widespread belief that interest rates would be raised later in the day. The Hang Seng index fell 6.35 to 2,886.46.

SINGAPORE — Share prices closed mixed on reduced volume after selective buying alternated with profit-taking. The Straits Times index rose 1.95 to close at 1,570.99.

BOMBAY — Fertiliser, cement and steel stocks gained on hopes of excise relief and price decontrol in the budget due on Monday. The Bombay Stock Exchange index rose 7.38 points to 686.29 after a two-day slide.

FRANKFURT — Shares closed mixed in quiet trading, with investors still cautious before East German elections Sunday. Dealers reported no selling pressure and little buying interest. The DAX index rose 10.33 to 1,889.69.

ZURICH — Shares closed slightly firmer, helped by a small rally late in the session. Overall volume was light. The Swiss performance index closed 1.3 higher at 1,002.5.

PARIS — Prices ended down but above the day's lows in a quiet market awaiting the outcome of Sunday's East German elections. The CAC-40 index ended down 5.65 at 1,958.82.

LONDON — Shares were sharply higher in active late trading, with the market responding to positive corporate news. A firm performance by the FTSE futures market also underpinned the rise. At 1643 GMT the FTSE index was up 29.1 at 2,264.0.

NEW YORK — A firm bond market and futures-related buying drove blue chips sharply higher by late-morning. The Dow was up 20 at 2,716.

## Japan's trade surplus may grow

TOKYO (R) — Continued strong imports and weak exports saw Japan's trade surplus narrow for the tenth straight month in February, but many economists say future drops should be less dramatic.

"The best numbers in terms of improvement are probably behind us," said Kenneth Courtis, senior economist at D.B. Capital Markets (Asia).

February's customs-cleared trade surplus fell 31 per cent to an unadjusted \$5 billion from \$7.24 billion a year earlier, the finance ministry has announced.

February's trade surplus decline was less than analysts had predicted, due largely to a smaller-than-expected drop in exports.

Many economists had forecast a drop of three per cent or more in exports, after they fell 3.8 per cent \$18.62 billion in January from \$19.36 billion a year earlier.

But exports in February shrank by just 1.9 per cent to \$21.96 billion from \$22.38 billion a year ago, the fifth consecutive month of shrinkage.

Imports, pushed up by higher oil prices, gained by 11.9 per cent to \$16.95 billion from \$15.5 billion a year ago.

Japan's overall trade surplus fell 89.5 per cent in January, the biggest year-on-year decline since June, 1979.

"(February's trade figure) confirms that the January figures were a complete aberration," said Paul Summerville, the economist at Jardine Fleming Securities' Tokyo branch.

Imports in February increased at their lowest rate since September, Summerville said.

Japan's trade surplus with the United States in February fell 29 per cent to \$2.96 billion from \$4.18 billion a year ago, but due mainly to large decreases in transportation, electrical goods and general machinery exports, analysts said.

They said lower exports stemmed mainly from sluggish U.S. demand, as well as from gradually growing production of Japanese goods in U.S. plants.

Exports to the United States fell 5.9 per cent to \$7.12 billion

from \$7.57 billion a year earlier. "Exports to the U.S. were weaker in those sectors that are a reflection of the weaker U.S. economy," Summerville said.

High oil prices in February, the highest since March, 1986, helped boost Japan's overall import bill. The value of crude oil imports surged 43.9 per cent to \$2.31 billion.

But many analysts said oil was likely to become less of a factor in enlarging the import side of the trade equation as the effect of an oil import tariff levies in August, 1988, disappears, analysts said.

On the export side, a higher dollar has depressed the value of Japanese exports in recent months. But some analysts believe a pickup in U.S. demand later this year could fuel higher export volumes.

"In general the trend is toward smaller drops (in the trade surplus) and reversal next year," said Jan Vandenberg, an economist at Merrill Lynch Japan.

Some analysts believe the weaker yen is likely to make

Japanese exports more competitive, pushing export volumes higher, by the second or third quarter of this calendar year.

And the stronger dollar, which has gained five per cent against Japanese currency since January, could make U.S. imports more expensive and less competitive, economists said.

At the same time, a slowing in the Japanese economy since January, could make U.S. imports more expensive and less competitive, economists said.

At the same time, a slowing in the Japanese economy later this year could see import demand fall off, Courtis said.

Robust demand in Europe and a weak yen is likely to see Japan's surplus with the EC rise. Japan's surplus with the European Community fell by a slim 0.5 per cent in February to \$1.88 billion from \$1.89 billion.

"We're set for a significant expansion of the trade surplus with Europe in the year ahead," Courtis said.

## Swissair boosts profits, predicts tougher times

ZURICH (R) — Switzerland's national airline Swissair Thursday reported a 24 per cent jump in net profit to 94.7 million Swiss francs (\$62.3 million) last year but said it expected tougher times ahead.

Chief executive Otto Loeppf said business boomed in the first nine months of 1989 but had since declined due to dearer fuel, adverse currency exchange rates and increased competition.

"In the short term we can expect tougher times ahead in the air transport field," he told a news conference. "But I am convinced we can build on the solid basis we have created, and I am confident we will be able to turn

in another satisfactory result for 1990 as a whole."

The airline said its shareholders would receive a dividend of 40 francs (\$26.3) per share, up from 38 francs (\$25) last year.

Loeppf said 1990 would be a year for consolidating cooperation pacts set up with other airlines.

Swissair has swapped or agreed to swap five-per-cent shareholdings stakes with Singapore Airlines, Delta Air Lines of the United States and Scandinavian Airline System (SAS), and also has an eight-per-cent holding Austrian Airlines.

Swissair shareholders will be

asked to subscribe to a rights issue of new shares to help finance these stake purchases.

Loeppf said these partnerships were essential if Swissair was to safeguard its position in the liberalised and fiercely competitive air travel market of the 1990s.

While optimistic about Swissair's outlook, he was gloomy about prospects for European passengers bedevilled last year by flight delays caused by airport congestion and air traffic control problems.

"Even an optimist would have to admit that the story will be much the same this year," he said.

He estimated such delays cost Swissair 80 million francs (\$52.6 million) last year in extra fuel, flight hours, overnight accommodation, and other charges.

Finance director Peter Nydegger said Swissair planned investments totalling 4.2 billion francs (\$2.8 billion) over the five years from 1990 to 1994.

Company officials declined to give the price for the recently agreed sale of the airline's 17 hotel Swissotel subsidiary to Japan's Aoki Corp, a construction and hotel group.

The airline wants to spend its money instead on cooperation with other airlines.

### HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR SATURDAY MARCH 17, 1990

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Richter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Getting a right start today largely depends on first deciding what conditions in your life need to be modernized and to study ways to uncover the specific means by which this can be easily accomplished.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Pleasure you have been anticipating of a social nature will occur a little later on. Many short trips with attachment can make this a happier day.

Taurus: (April 20 to May 20) Both longtime friends and newcomers can fill your social horizons now. Be sure now to make positive attachment is comfortable at your home.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) You will be clever in aiding a good friend with an emotional problem today. Much happiness is yours through quiet romance with mate.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) A day for much social happiness with several good friends. Entertain prosperous friends at your residence today.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Men will aid you now in enjoying the social activities that mean the most to you. New interests should be encouraged in association with your attachment.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) You will have your best of

times with relatives and clinging friends now. An unexpected event will bring more happiness between you and mate.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Encourage social contact with persons who have different background than your own. Go along with changes that are swiftly taking place at your dwelling.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Cultivate an attractive couple socially to whom you are drawn. Go along with attachment's ideas if you want real happiness.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) You will have your best times at group activities at this time. You are the one now to take action for establishing real harmony at your home.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) You see fine ways to make your home more comfortable and operative. An unusually happy time for you and your mate.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) A warm and magnetic atmosphere should now be in your home. Talk out in an objective manner about all present issues with your attachment.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Accept family suggestions in your daily activities. Encourage considerable activity of all kinds at home for both you and your mate.

### THE Daily Crossword by Victor Jambor Jr.

ACROSS

- 1 Serene
- 5 Young herring
- 10 Alumnus for short
- 14 Afr. plant
- 15 Corolla
- 18 Comedian Jay
- 17 Made room for
- 19 Food
- 20 Pronged weapon
- 21 Equivalence
- 22 Lingua
- 24 Composer Ned
- 25 Kitchen gadget
- 28 Movie
- 29 Letter
- 32 Omitting none
- 33 Hornless
- 34 Utensil
- 35 Inlets
- 36 Pine features
- 37 Gr. covered
- 38 "I'm seeing you."
- 39 Spurious
- 40 Silly act
- 41 New Guinea
- 42 Uncomplicated
- 43 Swardmen
- 44 Stargle
- 46 Social
- 47 Hun VIP
- 49 Provokes
- 53 "The Not"
- 54 DH word
- 56 Commedia dell'
- 57 Variety of types
- 58 Balm
- 59



## SPORTS IN BRIEF

## Dutch soccer fans sentenced

AMSTERDAM (AP) — Two Feyenoord Rotterdam soccer fans were sentenced to jail terms of 10 and seven months Thursday for leading explosive devices into a group of rival spectators, Dutch television reported. The two fans, aged 18 and 19, were also ordered to pay up to \$20 in compensation to 15 people injured in the blast, according to the television report. The sentences were among the heaviest ever meted out to soccer hooligans in this nation which is internationally notorious for its fan violence problem.

## Becker named 1989 player of the year

MIAMI (R) — Wimbledon and U.S. Open champion Boris Becker of West Germany received 1989 player of the year honors at the ATP awards dinner Thursday night. The 22-year-old world number two, who won five singles titles and posted a 14-3 record against other top 10-ranked players, earned the top individual award by a vote of the ATP's 500 members. In addition to his two grand slam titles last year, Becker won the year-end Masters Crown and led West Germany to a second successive Davis Cup title over Sweden. American Michael Chang, whose ranking jumped from 20th to fifth in the world last year, was named most improved player of 1989. Chang became the youngest male ever to win a Grand Slam tournament with his stunning French Open title at 17.

## Soviet Union to play in World Cup

MOSCOW (R) — The Soviet Union are unlikely to be thrown out of the World Cup finals in Italy because of problems caused by the formation of a breakaway Soviet Professional League, International Football Federation (FIFA) officials said Thursday. FIFA General Secretary Joseph Blatter and Pablo Pardo, head of its judicial committee, told a news conference they were concerned at the problems facing the Soviet Federation caused by its conflict with the Union of Soviet Soccer Leagues. The officials also rejected a bid by the Georgian Federation for International Recognition, the official TASS news agency reported. The two FIFA officials said they had met the head of the Georgian Federation and the senior coach of Dynamo Tbilisi, one of two clubs which recently pulled out of the recognized Soviet First Division, to try and resolve the problems currently afflicting Soviet soccer. They explained that the problems in the Soviet Union had to be resolved by the Soviet Soccer Federation, because this was the organization recognized by FIFA since 1946, and not by the newly-formed Union of Soccer Leagues which was not recognized by FIFA. Last month, the Georgian Federation voted to take no part in the Soviet soccer championship starting in March because they said the recent outbreaks of violence across the country threatened the safety of their teams.

## GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF  
& YANNAH HIRSCH

## WAIT YOUR TURN

Both vulnerable. South deals.

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South bidding: 1♠, 2NT, 3NT, 4NT, 5NT, 6NT, 7NT, 8NT, 9NT, 10NT, 11NT, 12NT, 13NT, 14NT, 15NT, 16NT, 17NT, 18NT, 19NT, 20NT, 21NT, 22NT, 23NT, 24NT, 25NT, 26NT, 27NT, 28NT, 29NT, 30NT, 31NT, 32NT, 33NT, 34NT, 35NT, 36NT, 37NT, 38NT, 39NT, 40NT, 41NT, 42NT, 43NT, 44NT, 45NT, 46NT, 47NT, 48NT, 49NT, 50NT, 51NT, 52NT, 53NT, 54NT, 55NT, 56NT, 57NT, 58NT, 59NT, 60NT, 61NT, 62NT, 63NT, 64NT, 65NT, 66NT, 67NT, 68NT, 69NT, 70NT, 71NT, 72NT, 73NT, 74NT, 75NT, 76NT, 77NT, 78NT, 79NT, 80NT, 81NT, 82NT, 83NT, 84NT, 85NT, 86NT, 87NT, 88NT, 89NT, 90NT, 91NT, 92NT, 93NT, 94NT, 95NT, 96NT, 97NT, 98NT, 99NT, 100NT, 101NT, 102NT, 103NT, 104NT, 105NT, 106NT, 107NT, 108NT, 109NT, 110NT, 111NT, 112NT, 113NT, 114NT, 115NT, 116NT, 117NT, 118NT, 119NT, 120NT, 121NT, 122NT, 123NT, 124NT, 125NT, 126NT, 127NT, 128NT, 129NT, 130NT, 131NT, 132NT, 133NT, 134NT, 135NT, 136NT, 137NT, 138NT, 139NT, 140NT, 141NT, 142NT, 143NT, 144NT, 145NT, 146NT, 147NT, 148NT, 149NT, 150NT, 151NT, 152NT, 153NT, 154NT, 155NT, 156NT, 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## Deputies differ on how well Gorbachev will use his power

MOSCOW (AP) — Soviet lawmakers knew Thursday they had handed even more political power to Mikhail Gorbachev, but there was less certainty he would use it well to reform the country.

Top officials loyally praised the election of Gorbachev to the Soviet Union's first executive presidency as a major step toward democracy.

But some members of the Congress of People's Deputies, the national parliament that elected Gorbachev president Wednesday, said he had acted indecisively in the past and would have to show an "iron fist" to make his programme work. Others were afraid of just the opposite — that he would be too ready to wield his new powers.

Their differences reflected the wide diversity of opinion cutting through Soviet society as a whole. There was a surprisingly low vote total for Gorbachev: Nearly 500 deputies voted against him, and he received only about 200 votes more than he needed out of the 2,245 deputies.

Gorbachev has managed to restore many political freedoms, leading to the Communist Party's agreement to give up its monopoly on political power, but the economy has worsened considerably during his five years in power.

Nevertheless, Communist Party politburo member Yegor Ligachev, who is widely regarded by reform-minded Soviets as perhaps the most conservative member of the party's ruling body, called the election "a major success."

"This is a truly positive development, especially at a time of party and social renewal, when both the party and society are undergoing transformation," Ligachev told the TASS news agency.

Leonid Abalkin, Gorbachev's point man on economic reform, and his military chief of staff, Gen. Mikhail Moiseyev, joined in praising the establishment of a presidential form of government.

"I don't see any other person who could take upon himself such a historic mission," said writer Chingiz Aitmatov.

Other deputies took a dimmer view of Gorbachev's election and his prospects for reforming the Soviet Union.

Deputy Anatoly Alexeyev of the Caspian Sea region, said he voted for Gorbachev but that he was going to have to get much tougher on his countrymen to pull them out of ethnic disputes and economic failure.

"We need an iron fist," Alexeyev said. "That's what I think, and a lot of other deputies think, too."

"If he continues to run his policies softly, nothing will work," Alexeyev said.

Deputy Yevgeny Kogan, a spokesman for Russians who live in Estonia, said he voted against Gorbachev because he was doing nothing to keep Estonia from breaking away from the Soviet Union.

"What would you do if a state decided it was leaving, and the president didn't take any measures to stop it?" he asked.

In the republics, which Gorbachev pledged to keep in the Soviet Union, independence-minded activists were a little more positive about the election.

"It's important for us to have a person who can stabilize the Soviet Union," said Mikhail Bronshteyn, an Estonian economist.

ist who is part of the brain trust pushing that Baltic republic toward independence. "To live next to an unstable Soviet Union is dangerous for everyone."

The election of Gorbachev was a good thing, said Valdis Antanaitis of Lithuania, because "he's more-or-less democratic."

Moscow deputy Ilya Zaslavsky said he found both bad and good in Gorbachev's election. Gorbachev will "start to strengthen his personal power, which is bad, and start to break up party power, which is good."

Igor Shamshev, a deputy belonging to the opposition inter-regional deputies group, said that Gorbachev apparently had lost both the votes of conservatives and liberals in the balloting, but "still the centre turned out stronger than the extremes."

Leaders congratulate Gorbachev

World leaders congratulated Gorbachev Thursday following his election to the Soviet Union's new and powerful post of president, and they hailed its implications for their relations with Moscow.

U.S. President George Bush sent a letter "wishing him well as he leads the Soviet Union into the next stage of perestroika and democratisation," said White House spokesman Martin Fitzwater.

He added that Bush is looking forward "to their forthcoming summit in June as an opportunity to broaden the already considerable elements of cooperation between our two countries."

Enrique Baron Crespo, president of the European Parliament, said in a message to the Soviet leader that his election "comes at a time of great opportunity for the establishment of peace and democracy throughout Europe."

"This situation is itself a product of your own ambitious programme of reform and restructuring," he added in the message sent on behalf of the European Community's legislative assembly in Strasbourg, France.

"The European Parliament is ready to play its part in strengthening relations between the Soviet Union and the European Community," he said, inviting Gorbachev to address the Parliament.

Polish President Wojciech Jaruzelski and Solidarity leader Lech Walesa welcomed Gorbachev's election in separate messages of congratulations.

"I am convinced that your appointment to this respectable but at the same time responsible post will meet a very favourable reception in Poland," Jaruzelski wrote in a lengthy message carried by the Polish News Agency (PAP).

"With great understanding and frank sympathy, we observe the process of a versatile political, social and economic rebuilding and the dynamism of the Soviet Union's peaceful foreign policy," he said.

Walesa, in a telegram released by his office in Gdansk, wished Gorbachev the "best of luck," and said the new post reflected an "expression of trust" in the Soviet leader's reforms.

In one of the first commentaries in the Polish press, Soviet affairs specialist Leon Bojko said the vote represented a "breakthrough" in history of Russia and the Soviet Union.

"Now power is accumulated in the hands of one man, but for the first time this is constitutional power resulting from the law and within the law," Bojko wrote in the Thursday edition of the pro-Solidarity Gazeta Wyborcza.

## Violence, rigging mar Bangladesh rural poll

DHAKA (R) — Rival groups with guns and home-made bombs have killed one woman and wounded nearly 500 other people during Bangladesh rural elections this week, police said.

Bangladesh and foreign monitoring groups said ballot stuffing, snatching of ballot boxes and under-age voting were rampant despite strong presence of security personnel at polling stations.

The latest violence was reported from Hathazari sub-district in southern Chittagong area where two powerful members of the ruling Jatiya Party were the main contestants.

The incumbent sub-district chairman of Hathazari, Jatiya leader Wahidul Alam, told reporters armed men burst into voting centres, tore up papers, threatened poll officials and pushed three vehicles into a pond.

"Many voters ran away for fear of their life. Others who stayed were told that all the votes were cast by 11 a.m.," Alam said.

Election officials earlier told reporters the presence of ministers near polling stations provoked tension and even helped to neutralise security measures.

One woman died and about 500 people have been wounded in sporadic violence since Wednesday, police told reporters. More than 100 people have been arrested.

The election is seen as a test case for President Hossain Mohammad Ershad's commitment to fair elections but monitoring groups said there was rigging.

"There was evidence of rigging and ballot piracy," Father R. W. Timm, president of the Coordination Council for Human Rights in Bangladesh, told reporters.

Police and witnesses said violence forced the suspension of polling in more than 50 centres but a senior police officer played down the problem.

## S. Korean cabinet resigns

SEOUL (R) — The South Korean cabinet resigned Friday, clearing the way for President Roh Tae-woo to reshuffle the government's inner circle, probably Saturday, a government spokesman said.

The resignations were tendered at a special cabinet meeting chaired by Prime Minister Kang Young-hoon, who is expected to keep his post. Under South Korea's presidential system, Roh, elected to a set five-year term, names the cabinet.

No other details were given but another government spokesman said the president might announce the new cabinet Saturday.

State radio quoted unnamed senior officials as saying the reshuffle, involving nearly two thirds of the 26-member cabinet, would be the biggest since Roh took power in February 1988.

All key economic ministers, including Deputy Prime Minister and Economic Planning Minister Cho Son, Finance Minister Lee Kyu-sung and Trade Minister

Han Seung-soo, were expected to be dropped, the radio and local newspapers report.

They said Roh was expected to replace Interior Minister Kim Tae-ho but retain Prime Minister Kang and Foreign Minister Choi Ho-jung to stress continuity in major foreign policies.

The current economic team led by academic Cho has been criticised by top politicians and business leaders for failing to stop a decline in the growth of the South Korean economy.

South Korean economic growth slowed to an estimated 6.5 per cent in 1989 from more than 12 per cent reported in each of the three previous years.

The local press expected Cho to be replaced by Lee Seung-yun, a former finance minister and a leading figure in the government party.

Lee favours a high level of export-driven economic expansion while Cho has concentrated on a more equal income distribution and on fighting inflation.

## Taiwan opposition denied meeting with president

TAIPEI (R) — Military dragged 14 leaders of Taiwan's fledgling opposition party kicking and screaming from the presidential palace Friday after they were denied a meeting with President Lee Teng-hui.

The group, including 11 Democratic Progressive Party (DPP) members of Taiwan's National Assembly, the party's chairman and the secretary-general, shouted and struggled wildly with club-wielding police at a side entrance before they were ejected.

DPP Chairman Huang Hsin-chieh fell to the ground and was hurt during the fracas, sparking cries of anger from a crowd. "You are the enemies of the people of Taiwan," assemblyman Hsing Chi-chang yelled at the police.

Meanwhile, in a legal set-back, Taiwan's grand justices Friday ruled the DPP national assemblymen could legally be denied voting rights in the assembly if they continued to refuse to take an oath of allegiance.

The 11 DPP members, the only opposition in the 752-member electoral college, have been blocked by riot police from taking their seats for the past four days.

They have refused to swear allegiance to the "Republic of China," the official name used by the Nationalist government, changing their oath instead to read "the Republic of Taiwan."

The Nationalists fled to Taiwan after the Communist victory in China in 1949 and still claim to be the rightful rulers of all China.

The National Assembly, which will decide whether to give a new six-year term to President Lee on March 21, is under increasing fire for what appears to be a last-ditch attempt to expand its powers.

With no opposition present, the assembly's screening committee has shored through a number of controversial bills this week which would boost assemblymen's pay, allow them to meet once a year, prolong their terms and even allow them to introduce legislation.

## Sandinistas must disband before we do, contra commander says

MUELLE DE LOS BUEYES, Nicaragua (R) — Sporting new uniforms and equipped with sophisticated communications gear, contra rebels inside Nicaragua say they are not prepared to disband until the Sandinista Armed Forces do so.

"As long as the Sandinista army and the Interior Ministry forces are intact there won't be democracy in Nicaragua and there won't be peace in Central America," said rebel commander Denis Galeano Cornejo, known as Comandante Johnny.

"We are going to remain armed in order to guarantee all that has been achieved," he told reporters this week in remote hills of southeast Nicaragua.

Jhonny, the younger brother of contra Commander-in-Chief Israel Galeano, said he commanded 4,000 rebels, some of whom remained in camps inside Honduras. He said he had received military training in the United States.

He gave reporters a communiqué signed by a contra wing known as the "Nicaraguan In-

ternal Resistance," previously unknown but not a renegade outfit in view of their sophisticated equipment.

The communiqué told Nicaraguans to alert against Sandinista efforts to reverse last month's election, in which U.S.-backed candidate Violeta Chamorro defeated the Sandinistas' President Daniel Ortega.

It appeared unlikely that the rebels would be disbanded by April 25, the day Chamorro takes office.

Ortega, Chamorro and regional leaders have called for the demobilisation of the U.S.-backed contras, who have fought an eight-year war against the Sandinista government.

Ortega said the continued presence of the contras would threaten a peaceful transition of power but he has promised to hand over authority even if the rebels are not demobilised.

After her victory, Chamorro said the causes of the contra struggle had disappeared. But Johnny said that if the

contras were disarmed and disbanded the new government would be under the constant threat of a coup by Sandinista military.

"There would be a coup d'état against the new government from one day to the next," he said.

Ortega said this week in South America that the Sandinistas would not stage a coup against the new government.

Chamorro has said she will reduce the size of the Sandinista army and Interior Ministry forces, which, with militias, total an estimated 100,000.

Members of her National Opposition Union (UNO) alliance have said they will abide by the Nicaraguan constitution which says the Sandinista army is the country's only armed force.

Despite Chamorro's refusal to include contra army members in her government, Johnny said she would not have been elected without them.

"Those free elections were held because of the armed struggle made by us, the combatants," he said.

## Soviet Georgia wants talks on independence

MOSCOW (R) — Soviet Georgia has denounced its incorporation into the Soviet Union in the 1920s as illegal and says that like Lithuania it wants talks with Moscow on independence.

The Georgian Supreme Soviet made the appeal in a declaration adopted on March 9 and published in a copy of the local official newspaper Zarya Vostoka, which reached Moscow Friday.

"The Georgian Supreme Soviet wants to begin negotiations on the establishment of an independent Georgian government, because it considers the 1922 USSR agreement regarding relations with Georgia illegal," the declaration said.

The statement, which follows campaigns for independence in the Baltic republics of Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia, is the latest challenge to President Mikhail Gorbachev.

A top Georgian deputy reached by telephone in Moscow, where he had been attending the meeting of the national parliament, told Reuters Friday that Georgian leaders wanted "talks along Lithuanian lines" with the central authorities.

## Satellite stranded in dangerous low orbit

CAPE CANAVERAL, Florida (AP) — An uninsured \$150-million communications satellite stranded in a dangerously low orbit appeared to be a loss Thursday as engineers tried desperately to boost it to a higher orbit.

The Intelsat VI satellite was until March 25 in its present orbit before it plunged back through Earth's atmosphere, said Maj. Thomas Niemann of the U.S. Space Command in Colorado.

"We are taking all steps necessary to place the satellite in a stable higher orbit where it could remain indefinitely," said Dean Burch, director general of Intelsat.

However, Niemann said it was uncertain whether the satellite could survive more than a few weeks even in a higher orbit.

The 5-ton satellite was propelled into space Wednesday at a cost of about \$270 million in the fourth commercial launch of a payload by a U.S. company.

Grounded up in the wrong orbit after failing to separate properly from the second stage of its Titan 3 booster rocket. The satellite was separated about seven hours later by computer commands sent from Intelsat's headquarters in Washington, D.C.

But the rocket motor that was to have boosted the satellite into higher orbit remained attached to the second stage booster.

## Peruvian police, U.S. agents supervise coca destruction

SANTA LUCIA, Peru (AP) — Workers have begun destroying clandestine plots of coca seedlings under the supervision of Peruvian police and U.S. drug agents, the first major strategy implemented from last month's anti-drug summit in Colombia.

The operations began this week on a small scale in Peru's coca-rich upper Huallaga Valley, targeting isolated fields of young plants before they can be transplanted. The workers used gas-powered weed cutters to destroy the plants.

An alarming increase in fields planted has prompted the government to renew its eradication programme, which was suspended more than a year ago, according to U.S. embassy spokesman Gene Bigler.

Despite a drastic drop in price in the last six months for Peruvian coca leaf, the raw material for cocaine, Peruvians continue to move into the valley, hoping to get rich off the drug trade.

"They're cutting down all the trees," said Gen. Juan Zarate, head of Peru's anti-drug police, from the back seat of a helicopter cutting through the heavy jungle floor.

Zarate pointed out new coca plantations carved out of the

jungle hillsides, creating a haphazard patchwork of emerald hues up and down the valley.

"There's going to be so much environmental damage," he said. Zarate took reporters to visit a test site where government scientists were studying the environmental effects of applying the herbicide spike to illegal coca fields.

Spike is one of a number of eradication methods under study. U.S. officials favour its use, saying testing so far indicates it does not cause ecological damage. But the Peruvian government has said more tests need to be done before it would consider using the chemical.

The move to begin manual eradication marks a major policy change for the government of President Alan Garcia, who favours a strategy of helping farmers gradually shift to other crops.

The accord signed in Cartagena, Colombia, by Garcia, U.S. President George Bush, and the Presidents of Bolivia and Colombia, linked eradication to economic development aid and the opening of U.S. markets to crops such as coffee, cacao and palm oil to give the coca growers alternative means of support.

However, the United States has said it is reluctant to fund development projects with Peru's 3,000 per cent inflation and a growing leftist insurgency by Maoist Shining Path guerrillas, who operate freely in much of the Huallaga Valley.

But U.S. officials proposed going ahead with a limited eradication programme to stem the growth of coca production.

The Peruvian government "has asked us for our support in eradication, and, of course, we're delighted," Bigler said.

The eradication teams operate out of the U.S.-built base at Santa Lucia, 420 kilometres northeast in Lima in the upper Huallaga Valley, the world's richest source of coca leaf.

About 350 eradication workers are stationed in Santa Lucia, along with about 120 Peruvian police and 30 to 40 U.S. drug agents, contracted American helicopter pilots and mechanics.

Ten UH-1 helicopters on loan from the U.S. State Department ferry the workers from the base to clandestine seedling plots, hidden under the dense jungle canopy.

Since September, the police have conducted raids against airstrips and jungle laboratories

used by smugglers to transform the leaves into a paste and ship it to Colombia, where it is made into cocaine.

The police have destroyed about 125 labs since September, according to an embassy official.

But despite interdiction efforts in Peru and Colombia, where authorities have confiscated hundreds of airplanes used by the smugglers, a recent U.S. government report says the number of acres planted in coca in the Andean nations grew by 12 per cent last year.

More than 250,000 people are involved in growing and processing the drug plant in Peru, bringing more than \$1 billion a year into the country, according to U.S. and Peruvian government estimates.

The government estimated that coca grows on half a million acres in Peru, with 60 of it in the Huallaga Valley.

As the helicopter swooped loudly over a small ridge, Zarate looked down on a woman and child standing next to a thatched hut with their latest coca harvest drying in the sun nearby.

"What we need is to give these people something else to do so they stop moving in here," he said.

## COLUMN

### Filmmakers race to cash in on Lambada dance

LOS ANGELES (AP) — About the only thing hotter than Lambada these days is the fever with which filmmakers are trying to cash in on the bump-and-grind dance. Two independent movie companies owned by rival cousins are set to release quickie films head to head, taking advantage of the steamy Afro-Brazilian dance sensation sweeping the country.

Canon Films' "Lambada" completed production only last week and will open on some 1,000 screens around the United States. Made in six weeks for about \$4 million, the film is about a high school teacher who uses Lambada to encourage burlesque kids to study. The Forbidden Dance, produced by 21st Century Film Corp., opens on 500 U.S. screens after a month in the making. It tells the story of a Brazilian princess who uses Lambada dancing to save her country's rain forests.

"They're both being rushed out," said John Krier, president of Exhibitor Relations Co., which tracks movie box office performance. Canon originally scheduled a May 4 release and 21st Century an April 6 premiere. Most films take at least a year, and often twice as long, to make and release.

Krier speculated the intense competition between the films is tied to the rivalry of cousins Menahem Golan of 21st Century and Yoram Globus of Canon. They founded Canon, which has since been bought by Parde Communications. Dance instructors hope the films will fuel the already heated interest in Lambada, just as Saturday Night Fever, Dirty Dancing, and Flashdance rivaled disco dancing. "Lambada's going to bring people back into the studios, get them back into movie dancing," said Los Angeles instructor Michael Davis, who has taught the dance about three months. "The last dance craze was the hustle some seven years ago, since then it's just been freestyle dancing. Now it's time for a return to couple dancing." Born decades ago in Brazil's northern Bahia, Lambada somewhat resembles other Latin dances, such as Salsa. It is a close dance, with male and female partners entwined around each other, grinding their hips together.

Quayle returns gift of jaguar cubs

BRASILIA (R) — Vice President Dan Quayle has returned a pair of jaguar cubs given him by the president of Paraguay because the animals are an endangered species, a Quayle aide has said. The sleek cats, a gift of President Andres Rodriguez, were waiting for Quayle at the U.S. embassy in Asuncion Monday evening when he arrived in Paraguay for an overnight visit during his Latin American goodwill tour. Aides said he would donate the jaguars, named Chaco and Paloma, to a zoo in the United States. But a Quayle aide said a check of the endangered species act showed that the five-month-old cubs could not be brought to the United States without a special permit. Reports of the gift also caused an outcry from U.S. animal rights groups. Assistant Secretary of State Bernard Aronson told a Rodriguez aide that Quayle would prefer that the jaguars be returned to the wild. The aide blamed the embassy staff for the diplomatic embarrassment, saying Quayle's office had been reluctant to accept the jaguars in the first place. U.S. diplomats in Paraguay insisted it would create an incident if the gift was refused, the aide said.

Global weather (major world cities)

AMSTERDAM 12 54 16 64 Clear  
ATHENS 15 64 18 64 Clear  
BARCELONA 15 64 18 64 Clear  
BANGKOK 24 75 28 81 Clear  
BUENOS AIRES 18 64 22 70 Clear  
CAIRO 12 52 20 68 Cloudy  
CHICAGO 11 52 20 68 Cloudy  
COPENHAGEN 10 48 18 64 Clear  
FRANKFURT 12 50 18 64 Clear  
GENEVA 10 48 14 57 Clear  
HONG KONG 15 64 20 68 Clear  
ISTANBUL 12 50 18 64 Clear  
LONDON 10 48 17 63 Cloudy  
LOS ANGELES 69 49 78 70 Clear  
MADRID 10 48 23 72 Clear  
MEXICO 10 51 20 68 Cloudy  
MONTREAL 11 51 20 68 Cloudy  
MOSCOW 10 48 17 63 Cloudy  
NEW DELHI 17 62 31 87 Clear  
NEW YORK 68 48 77 81 Clear  
PARIS 10 51 17 63 Clear  
ROME 10 48 19 68 Clear  
SYDNEY 10 48 21 70 Clear  
TOKYO 10 48 16 61 Clear  
VIENNA 10 48 18 62 Clear

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